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ADR

102-2401

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

5 July 1945

Chief, Foreign Branch II

Attn: MULLEN

Alfred Otto von HOLZENBERG

REFERENCE: MONT 565

file

1. We are forwarding for your information the following material from our files on Alfred Otto von HOLZENBERG.

2. Subject may be the von HOLZENBERG who in December 1934 was reported to be looking for gold in Palestine but was, in fact, in search of treasure, having heard in Germany that during the German retreat in 1923 the Army had buried a chest containing money in the neighbourhood of Amman. At the end of 1935, von HOLZENBERG was reported to have exhausted the funds provided for the search by condulous persons in Germany and was therefore unwilling to return to Germany at that time.

3. British sources, apparently prior to 1943, reported that an official Polish source had indicated Subject to be chief of the German I.G. in Rumania where he had been since March 1940. This same report stated that Subject also directed German espionage in other Balkan states. He was said to have a number of army officers working for him and to have an office at 9 Str. Stern called the "Deutsche Gewerbe- und Handelsgruppe W" which enjoyed extra territorial rights. During this period Subject allegedly visited frequently a "German meeting place" at 92-93 Oalea Victoriei, Bucharest.

4. According to DEK, former SS chief, Subject held the SS rank of Hauptsturmführer and was an outstanding figure, being extremely intelligent, rugged and well-tried. Subject was dispatched to Bucharest with orders to set up an intelligence service and to contact the German minority group (Andreas SCRANT) and the Iron Guard (Marie OREA); General-Governor RADIN in Craiova; General CHISTENBERG (Air Attaché); Dr. REINHOLD, the Minister; and officers of the Abwehr. That he did

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy   
(2)(B) Methods/Sources   
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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so "was a considerable achievement," according to JOST, due to the intercity of inter-service rivalry. Subject was assisted in his work by Graf von MESEN, and he also had contacts with the local press. His contact with the Russian Foreign Office was very close and gave him the opportunity to receive secret reports received from Moscow, being himself an economist he was able to give a very clear picture of the economic problems of the country. JOST considered Subject the only German who understood political conditions in Russia. Subject, however, made the mistake of protecting Von Gorchest, leader of the opposition, and the suppression measures of APRIL 1945, thus interfering with and offending APRIL 1945 against the wishes of the German Foreign Office. The upshot was that Subject was recalled at the insistence of BIELEFELD and all 100 members in Russia stopped for the time being even though JOST had justified Subject's actions.

5. In 1947-48 one VAN BOLSCHENDEN was reported as having a business address at Steinerweg 6, Vienna. This individual was born around 1907-08, was described as having a pale complexion, long thin nose, complexion, blond hair, going bald, blue eyes, 1.85 meters tall, and weight about 78 kgs. He was said to be very tall and thin, having small with a slight forward lean, but nevertheless strong. He was styled a soldier and also a mercant, is said to have worked for the S.D. "several years prior to 1944". He is alleged to have spent about nine months in a Gestapo prison for unknown reasons. This man, however, has been prior to 1943 at a time when BOLSCHENDEN, working as a foreign exchange expert, was charged with assisting Jews to emigrate. BOLSCHENDEN appears to have been an old friend of ALFRED MAJOREK, early 1940 and 1945. MAJOREK's interrogation shows that he knew BOLSCHENDEN by the nickname of "Oskar".

6. In February 1948 Prince Nikolai STURMIA stated that he was then one of a group of Russians in Salzburg engaged in obtaining intelligence from Germans via a regular courier service. The group was directed, according to STURMIA, by Herbert von LALLIER and Subject, who claimed to be employed by Oskar HIRSH in Frankfurt, described as Property Control Officer. The American group included also Kurt AUNER, France's PLESKY and Ernst SCHALT. The material received from Russia via a courier was said to be written in secret code provided by VONIER and Subject. Upon receipt, messages were sent to Munich for SW development and then returned to Salzburg for translation. STURMIA approached our C-Station to express his dissatisfaction with the handling of the group. He considered that the net was capable of procuring significant intelligence

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